

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Text message conversation

Other known title(s): Abigail

OFLC ref: 1700578.000

Medium: Computer Text File Printout

Publisher: Not stated

Country of origin: Not stated

Language: English

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Objectionable.
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Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 01 December 2017

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 01 December 2017

Summary of reasons for decision:

This computer text file printout is deemed to be objectionable because it promotes and supports the exploitation of children for sexual purposes. While the content has the tone of a fictional fantasy account of sexual abuse of a child rather than a record of actual abuse, this does not limit or reduce its promotional effect. The salacious manner in which the activity is described is clearly intended to have an arousing effect on those who already have a sexual interest in children and could also contribute to creating such an interest. The presentation of a young girl as a ready and willing sexual partner for an adult normalises and justifies sexual fantasy involving children and thereby trivialises child sexual abuse. Classifying this publication as objectionable places a limit on the right to freedom of expression contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 but this is consistent with Parliament's intention that publications which fall under s3(2)(a) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 are deemed to be objectionable. It also reflects the public concern to prohibit material which could result in the sexual abuse of children by legitimising and encouraging a sexual interest in them.